The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday the 21st day of March 1922, with the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR Avargal, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, in the chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Shooting of unarmed men and women at Minchalapadu.

1382 *Q.*—Mr. P. VENKATASUBBA RAO: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the circumstances that led to the shooting of unarmed men and women at Minchalapadu; if there is any basis for the allegation that the attack on the police was under the influence of drink; whether the Government justify the shooting down of women; whether the report of the District Magistrate on the matter will be laid on the table?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the press communiqués issued on March 2nd and March 4th.

Treatment of pilgrims at Tenali.

1383 *Q.*—Mr. P. VENKATASUBBA RAO: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state if the Government are aware that five pilgrims of Tenali were beaten by the police at Amraoti in Guntūr district on 23rd February 1922 and whether the Government will inquire into the matter and take necessary action?

A.—If the hon. Member will communicate to the Chief Secretary the information on which the question is based, the Government will make such inquiry as they think necessary.

Retention of punitive police.

1384 *Q.*—Mr. P. VENKATASUBBA RAO: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any justification for the continuance of the punitive police and the military in the district after the statement in the communiqué of the 4th March 1922 that there has been 'considerable change in the attitude of village officers and the people towards the authorities, etc.'; and

(*b*) whether the policy of arrests by executive officers in the district has been dictated by the Government?

A.—(*a*) It will be necessary to employ additional police in the Guntūr district until it can be ensured that the recent troubles will not recur. The troops will probably be removed in the near future.

(*b*) It is not understood what information the hon. Member wants.